



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



FEBRUARY 11, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting: I will be attending the AMS's Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, this week. A wide variety of topics will be covered in the general and poster sessions. Other Western Region staff who serve on key AMS committees are expected to attend the meeting, including Brad Colman (Seattle), Larry Dunn (Salt Lake City), and Kathy Hoxie (Sacramento). In addition, staff from NWS Weather Forecast Office in San Diego and Oxnard and WR Climate Program Manager Andrea Bair will attend the sessions, including a special February 12 press conference on the latest information about El Niño.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



NWAC Forecaster Mark Moore (left) answers questions about the NWAC mountain observation points and forecast area. Seattle WCM Ted Buehner (second from left) was also interviewed.

"China Central TV" Visit to WFO Seattle-Tacoma:

NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast Office in Seattle, Washington, hosted a crew from "China Central TV (CCTV)" on February 6. The director and photographer visited the NOAA facility and interviewed staff at the forecast office as well as the U.S. Forest Service's Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center (NWAC). The purpose of the visit was to conduct interviews regarding avalanches and mountain winter weather safety for a documentary hosted by China's Mountain Climbing Team Captain. Weather Service staff discussed the NWS mission, forecast programs, products and services, and dissemination systems, especially for mountain weather. The NWAC discussed their forecast operations, how avalanches occur, how they forecast mountain weather and avalanche hazards, and the working relationship with WFO Seattle-Tacoma.

Jefferson Award: NOAA's National Weather Service presented one of the agency's seven Thomas Jefferson Awards for 2002 to Alice and Bob Rickman of Grangeville, Idaho, on February 12. The Rickmans were recognized for their 47 years of service observing and reporting weather through the NWS' Cooperative Weather Observer Program. Bruce Bauck, meteorologist-in-charge from the NWS forecast office in Missoula, Montana, and I presented the award to the couple at a special ceremony in Grangeville. WCM Peter Felsch and DAPM Stan Krenz also participated.

The Rickman's have defined the climate around north-central Idaho since May 1955. In 1993, they were awarded another cooperative observer honor, the John Companius Holm Award. NWS officials estimate the Rickman's have recorded weather data for more than 564 months (equaling in excess of 17,000 observations) during their tenure as members of the observer program. These records are now a permanent part of the nation's climate record.

NOAA Weather Radio: A new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter was installed at Jordan, Montana, and is now broadcasting information from NOAA's National Weather Service forecast office in Glasgow. The new broadcasts will serve citizens within approximately 30 miles of Jordan (Garfield County). Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service grant program, Garfield County purchased and donated this transmitter to the NWS. Mid-Rivers Telephone Communications donated the tower space for 15 years, and McCone Electric donated 15 years of electrical power. Jordan is the county seat, has the largest concentration of population, and is in the heart of eastern Montana. It is the area's hub for those who grow grains, raise livestock, or participate in various year-round recreational opportunities. Approximately 80 percent of Montana residents can receive NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts.

Storm Ready: Several Washington state communities were recognized as National Weather Service "Storm Ready" communities last week. Three separate ceremonies were held the week of February 3rd to recognize Spokane County and 13 separate cities and towns in the county. WFO Spokane MIC John Livingston and WCM Ken Holmes, along with Dave Byrnes, the Emergency Manager from Spokane County/City, spoke at each of the ceremonies. Certificates and road signs were given to the county commissioners as well as mayors from the various cities. The new Storm Ready display was used at each meeting providing a professional looking backdrop for information packets and pictures.



MIC John Livingston (left), City of Spokane Mayor John Powers, and WCM Ken Holmes during the February 3 Storm Ready ceremony.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: After several weeks of mild weather over the Great Basin, a storm system brought much colder temperatures, rain, snow, and gusty winds to the region around the first of February. This week's statement is a winter storm outlook by WFO Elko lead forecaster Jim Wallmann. His statement provided advance notice that the weather pattern would be much different from one that had recently set several daily and monthly record high temperatures. It was especially important that weekend, because Elko was holding a Cowboy Poetry Festival and many visitors could have been caught unprepared.

WINTER STORM OUTLOOK

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ELKO NV
340 PM PST THU JAN 30 2003

...STRONG PACIFIC STORM WILL BRING AN ABRUPT CHANGE TO THE
WEATHER SATURDAY...

RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES ON FRIDAY WILL RAPIDLY COOL BY LATE
SATURDAY AS A STRONG PACIFIC COLD FRONT MOVES THROUGH NEVADA.
THIS COLD FRONT WILL BRING RAIN AND SNOW TO THE AREA SATURDAY
AFTERNOON AND EVENING. SNOW LEVELS WILL START NEAR 9000 FEET
EARLY... BUT FALL TO THE VALLEY FLOORS BY SATURDAY EVENING. IN
ADDITION... STRONG WINDS WILL ACCOMPANY THE FRONT WITH SOUTHWEST
WINDS OF 15 TO 30 MPH SATURDAY BECOMING NORTHWEST BY SATURDAY
EVENING.

THIS STORM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING THE FIRST ACCUMULATING
VALLEY SNOWFALL IN OVER A MONTH TO MUCH OF NORTHERN NEVADA.
SNOWFALL AMOUNTS ARE STILL IN QUESTION...BUT SEVERAL INCHES ARE
POSSIBLE MAINLY OVER NORTHEAST AND EAST CENTRAL NEVADA.

ANYONE PLANNING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OR TRAVEL SATURDAY AFTERNOON
AND EVENING SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS.
STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/elko> FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

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WALLMANN

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Climate Service Program: The Climate Services Steering Committee developed a prototype for a core suite of products for the climate sections on WFO web pages. This core suite of products was designed to create climate sections on WFO web pages so that no matter what office web page a customer accesses, they will be able to get at least this core suite of products in addition to local and unique climate information provided by the WFOs. The prototype climate section for the web pages was sent to field offices for review and comment by the end of February.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

GOES-East: NESDIS is transitioning the old GOES-8 out of operations and replacing it with a new satellite GOES-12 as the primary operational satellite over the eastern United States (also known as GOES-East). GOES-12 is scheduled to replace GOES-8 as the GOES-East operational spacecraft on April 01, 2003. The exact time to be determined, but likely in the 1800-1900Z time frame. GOES-8 has been in operation 6

plus years. This is excellent performance, considering it was one of the first two satellites in the new, upgraded GOES series.

Reminder - UAP Applications Due by February 21, 2003: The NWS University Assignment Program (UAP) offers opportunities for both full-time and part-time training assignments in job or career-related study at an accredited educational facility. It enables employees to keep abreast of advances in science and technology and other innovations within their occupational fields. The program also provides an opportunity for all employees to learn new skills, as well as to develop and improve abilities they require in current or future positions. The UAP should be used only when the needed set of skills or knowledge requires a comprehensive long-term study program rather than a series of unconnected, short-term courses.

All application materials must be received at the Regional Office (SSD) by February 21. Ask your MIC or SOO for additional information.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Introductory UNIX Course: WRH Systems Operation Division (SOD) has scheduled a three day Introductory Unix course for eighteen WR students to be held at the Salt Lake Community College in Salt Lake City from March 18-20, 2003. The introductory level UNIX training will include many basics such as the history of UNIX; User Accounts & Environment; UNIX File System; Shell Concepts - Korn, C; File System and Basic Commands; UNIX Processes; Scripts; Basic Admin Issues.

IT Security Awareness Training: As a reminder, all NOAA personnel are required to complete the mandatory NOAA IT Security Awareness Training before March 15. The course is available at <http://noaa.learnsecuritywith.us>

AWIPS Status: Twenty-one of 24 Western Region WFOs have installed their Weather Archive Servers (AXs). National Weather Service Headquarters is acquiring archive servers (RXs) for the River Forecast Centers (RFCs). RXs are scheduled to be deployed to the RFCs by the end of March.